30. Chowgule and Co. Ltd.

31. Sesa Industries Ltd.

32. Maharashtra Apex Corporation Limited.

33. Anglo French Drugs & Industries Limited

Electronic refund of excess tax deductions

177. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income-Tax department is contemplating a move to refund excess tax deductions electronically in the bank accounts of tax payees;

(b) if so, whether the electronic transfer of excess deduction is likely to begin from this fiscal year; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are also planning to make rules simpler for tax payees, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Income Tax Department is in the process of initiating a scheme which is likely to be introduced in financial year 2003-04 for crediting the income tax refund to the bank account of the tax payer directly provided the furnishes the particulars of his bank account of the Department.

(c) Rationalisation and simplification of the direct tax law is an ongoing process. However, the Department has taken the following major initiatives during the current financial year to enhance the comfort level of the tax payers:—

(i) The services relating to allotment of PAN have been outsourced to UTI investor Services Ltd. from 1/7/2003;

(ii) The Department is introducing a computer generated intelligent random selection of the cases for scrutiny;

(iii) One page simplified form of return has been notified;

(iv) The Software for preparation of returns of income has been released;

(v) The number of forms for the purposes of deduction of tax at source are being substantially reduced;

(vi) The electronic filing of return of income is being introduced shortly;

(vii) The procedure and methods employed during search and seizure and during survey by the Department have been simplified;

(viii) The fee charged by the Department for compounding of various offences pending under the I.T. Act has been substantially reduced and

(ix) A number of measures are being taken to reduce litigation at various levels.

Utilisation of Kargil Tax

178. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected as Kargil Tax so far; and

(b) the details of utilization of funds so collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No tax by the name 'Kargil Tax' has been levied by the Government. However, a Surcharge on Income Tax was levied by the Government in 1999-2000 to raise resources to meet the additional expenses of the Kargil war.

An amount of Rs. 4226.65 crores has been collected by way of various types of Surcharge from 1999-2000 to 2001-02. However, it is not ascertainable as to what amount out of the Collections is on account of Surcharge for Kargil War.

(b) The amount collected through levy of Surcharge by the Government forms part of the General Revenues of the Central Government and provisions for expenditure are made therefrom through Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments after obtaining approval of the Parliament. The amount collected on account of Surcharge for Kargil War has also been utilized by the Government in the same manner.